The DrumBeat

Tyler Junior College's independent student media since 1927

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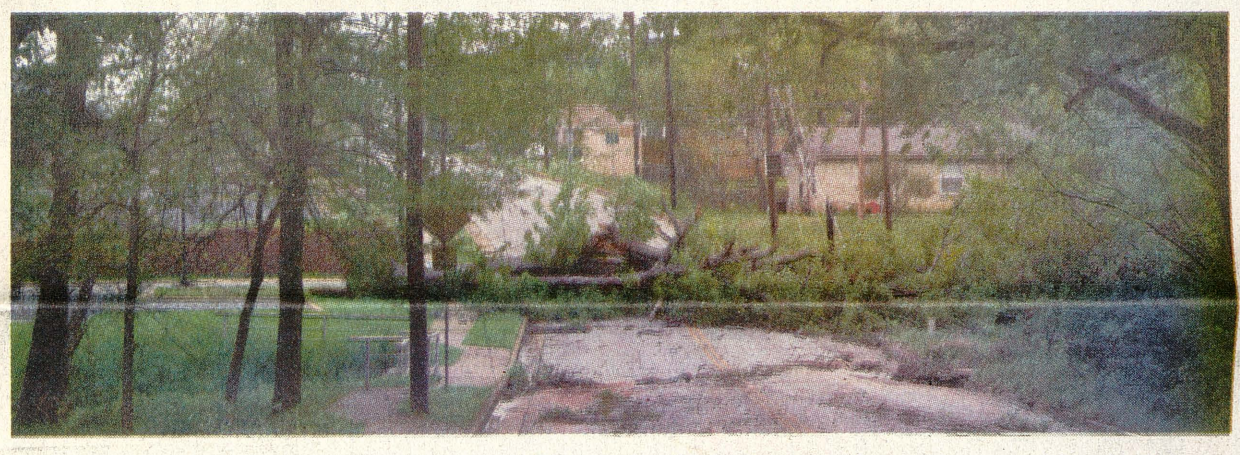

Photos by Chris Swann, Alexa Glenn and Marie Salazar

Clockwise from left: A volunteer carries a large branch to throw on a pile of gathered debris. Student life, financial aid, business services and academic affairs helped assist with clean up efforts. A damaged tent being removed by volunteers. Poles holding the tent collapsed and tables that sat underneath were scattered across the quad. A wide view of the fallen tree in front of Rodgers Student Center. One portion of the tree fell on Vaughn Conversatory and other portions fell on the walk way in front of Rodgers. A large tree blocking the road on E Devine St. Upon falling, it took down multiple power lines.

TJC community helps with cleanup efforts

By DrumBeat Staff

Significant damage occurred across the TJC campus due to a severe storm on April 12. The damage included fallen trees and limbs as well as scattered debris. According to the TJC Alert system, no injuries were reported.

Kim Lessner, vice president for operations and chief operations officer at TJC, confirmed there was damage to the exterior of buildings across campus as well as fallen trees and limbs.

"I think we have documented everything, but we'll continue to assess as needed. But honestly, we probably won't have a full report or estimate on the amount of damages for a few days," Lessner said.

On the following day, some on-campus buildings were still without power, and classes were canceled until noon. However, many students, faculty and employees across campus banded together to help with clean up.

"I just want to give a shout out to the students and the employees. I mean, it's very clear the love for this institution. People were helping one another," Lessner said. "Some of our employees came, and then because the operations were closed, instead of going home, they put on gloves, and were safely in working with facilities, they started picking up limbs."

Some of the groups who participated in cleanup included, Student Life, Financial Aid, Business Services, and Academic Affairs.

"They just were asking for help in a group text and so our staff and others from other departments just decided to help," said Lauren Tyler, director of student life. "I mean, our facilities and grounds do so much for us throughout the year, so you know when they needed help, we just wanted to chip in."

The Womans Soccer Team is one of the many groups of volunteers that helped with removing debris.

"I think it's important to help the community of Tyler Junior College to just clean everything up and also for like the team. It's also important to like serve others. We try with our team to help other people with just easy things like this," Demi Van Stappershoef, sophomore defender, said.

Students who signed up for TJC Alerts did receive several warnings regarding the storm and were informed to take shelter. Alerts that were issued informed students of things such as tornado watches, tornado warnings, severe thunderstorm warnings as well as information regarding campus closure.

"Your phone is your most critical asset, because especially for all the employees, and for the students that had RAVE, you know, they were receiving all of their alerts. And obviously, they would have received the tornado warnings, as well. So your phone is your best friend," Lessner said.

Rave Alert is a text, email and phone emergency communications system that sends out immediate emergency communications notifications. Lessner said, students are automatically enrolled in the Rave alert system.

Lessner said when a warning is sent out the dorms have measures in place for students to take.

In the Crossroads dorms, resident assistants are trained to handle weather-specific emergencies. Ryan Charles is one such RA.

"As soon as we get the warning, which usually comes down from the Assistant Director, Emmanuel Sims, he texts us in the group chat. We just rush everyone into their rooms and make sure they get in their bathrooms because those are the safe designated areas in Crossroads," Charles said.

In addition to taking shelter, students were temporarily left without power on the morning of April 13. Students in dorms without power expressed the inconvenience of the late-night power outage.

Freshman Onyx Pirhalla said, "We lost power last night... and my computer died last night which I needed for classes, and we just got power this morning."

According to Oncor's outage map as of 2 p.m. April 13 there were a total of 298 outages in Smith County.

"Tuesday's severe weather system generated heavy rain, lightning, hail, high winds, and reports of tornado activity. The greatest outage impacts occurred in our eastern region, including Smith, Henderson, Anderson, Cherokee and Nacogdoches Counties," according to an Oncor weather update.

Students who do not live on campus also faced similar issues related to the storm.

"Power went out around my area; trees were falling down. My trash can flew across the land and stuff," said Kyandra Howard, freshman at TJC.

According to the National Weather Service, on April, 13 the highest wind speed reached a maximum of 32 mph, and the highest gust speed reached 48 mph in Tyler.

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SENATE CONFIRMS KETANJI BROWN JACKSON TO US SUPREME COURT

Graphic by Marie Salazar

The U.S. Senate confirmed Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court by a vote of 53-47. Jackson is the third black justice and the fifth woman to be on the Supreme Court. She is the first black woman to hold the seat.

By Marie Salazar
Editor-In-Chief

The U.S Senate confirmed Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court on April 7, thus making history in appointing the first female African American justice.

The Senate voted 53-47, with 50 members of the Democratic party alongside three Republican senators, Susan Collins, Mitt Romney and Lisa Murkowski voting in favor of Jackson's confirmation. Jackson will officially take the place of Justice Stephen G. Breyer who will be retiring at the end of the court's session toward the end of the summer. For the time being, Jackson will continue to serve in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

According to Apnews.com, "Jackson will be just the third black justice, after Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas, and the sixth woman. She will join three other women, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Amy Coney Barrett – meaning that four of the nine justices will be women for the first time in history."

In a tweet, President Joe Biden shared his congratulations alongside an image of the two taking a selfie after the big moment.

"Judge Jackson's confirmation was a historic moment for our nation. We've taken another step toward making our highest court reflect the diversity of America. She will be an incredible Justice, and I was honored to share this moment with her," Biden tweeted.

Others outside of the White House also celebrated in a moment of joy.

"My initial response was joy. I was very proud that I have the pleasure to see a black woman have a place on the Supreme Court," Ayanna Bell, President of The Black Student Association said.

Her confirmation was also seen as a win for the democratic party. While democratic senators celebrated, the 47 opposed republican senators did not partake in the celebration with them.

Supreme Court continued on Page 4

President Biden to release 1 million barrels of oil a day from reserves. Will it affect prices at the pump?

By Chris Swann
Design and Photo Editor

After a month of record-high prices at the pump, President Joe Biden announced on March 31 the release of 1 million barrels of oil per day from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for six months. Biden calls this "a wartime bridge" to fill the market gap until U.S. oil and producers can increase production later this year. Starting in May, more than 180 million barrels of oil will be released within the six-month time frame, making this the largest release of reserves in the nation's history.

On top of inflation raising the price of other goods, consumers have faced higher gas prices since the disruption of the market by the pandemic. In addition, U.S. sanctions on Russian oil following the invasion of Ukraine also decreased the U.S. oil supply. Russian oil made up 8% of all U.S. petroleum imports in 2021 according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

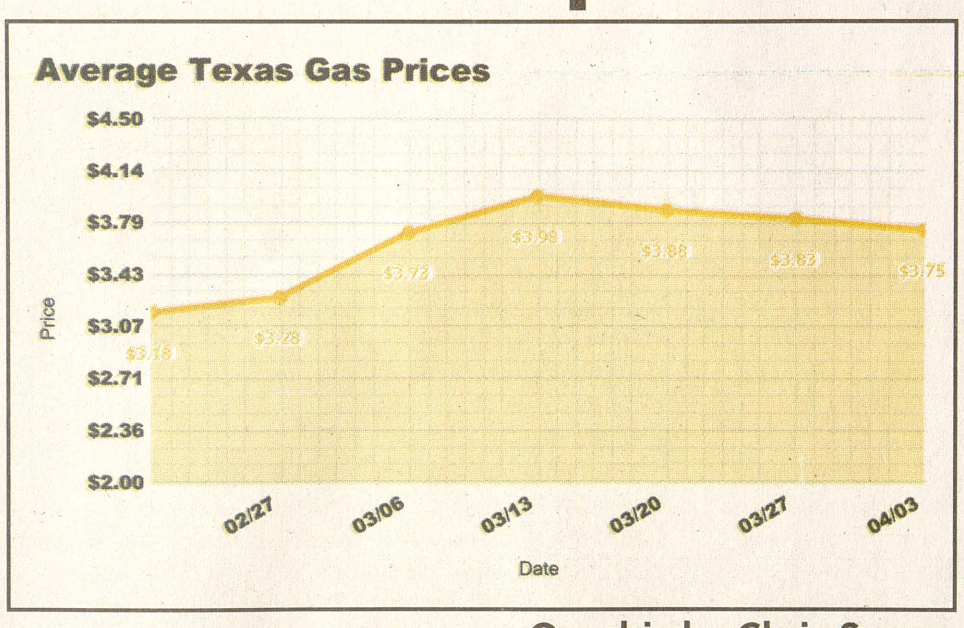
"I know how much it hurts, as you've heard me say before, I grew up in a family like many of you, where when the price of a gallon gasoline went up it was discussion at the kitchen table," Biden said in a press conference after his announcement on March 31. "Our family budgets, your family budgets to fill a tank, none of it should hinge on whether a dictator declares war."

As the summer approaches, so does a seasonal rise in demand and therefore gas prices. With more people driving this summer, many are wondering whether such a move by the Biden Administration will substantially help lower gas prices.

Cullin Davis, professor of economics at TJC, said it's hard to predict.

"Oil and gas prices in general are very convoluted. There's a lot of different factors that go into these sort of things," Davis said. "So it's gonna be hard to disentangle what effect this actually had."

Davis states gas prices at many pumps have already been decreasing. According to gas price tracker website GasBuddy, average prices in Texas have been steadily decreasing from $4.02 on March 10 to just above $3.71 on April 8. The same could be said for the national average though not as drastic, going from $4.35 to $4.12 on their same respective dates. Whether the price decrease came directly from Biden's announcement is unknown.



Graphic by Chris Swann

Prices as of April 3 reached $3.75 and have steadily been decreasing since. Data gathered from the EIA shows prices rapidly increased since Russia's invasion of Ukraine at the end of February.

Stephen Stine, professor of economics at TJC, said despite gas prices already declining, consumer confidence will help reduce gas prices even further. Stine said Biden's plan, along with having an economic side, also has a political side to it. By showing the government is taking action to help relieve prices, consumer confidence will rise.

"The federal government's making efforts to reduce [inflation] and that helps maintain consumer confidence, which is critical to our maintaining economic growth, because two thirds of our economy is based on consumer purchases," Stine said.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, consumer confidence is a way to gauge the state of an economy by those who are directly affected by it. During an economic expansion or influx of capital, consumer confidence is relatively high, and consumers will tend to feel more comfortable spending money. As a result, economic growth will continue, as these bigger purchases are pushing the influx of capital even further. On the other hand, during an economic downturn, consumers will feel less likely to spend money or make bigger purchases, giving the same type of effect, only in the opposite direction.

Davis says another factor going into gaging the prospect of prices is consumers habits.

"If we do have decreased oil prices due to the release of million barrels a day," Davis said, "then that's gonna encourage people to drive more toward where it kind of just levels out back at the same price."

When it comes to demand, consumer's energy consumption decisions are often based on the future. For example, the price of gas now could be the difference between someone committing to road trip plans or canceling, even if such trip is multiple months in advance.

Another example is when consumers are shopping for a new vehicle. "Whenever you buy a car, you're pretty much setting how much gas you're going to be buying whenever

Gas Prices continued on Page 4

Addressing the issue of exploiting death

Florida's ICON Park incident: Tyre Sampson deserves respect

Photo Courtesy of A-Ron Johnson, cousin of Tyre Tyre, was known by his family, friends and teammates as "Big Tick." His loved ones are still in mourning and continue to remember him through their social media posts.

By Asia Johnson
Managing Editor

Tyre Sampson, a 14-year-old male, rode ICON Park's Freefall Tower in Orlando, Florida, from which he fell to his death on March 24.

The ride reaches speeds up to 75 mph and is 430 feet high, making it the tallest freestanding drop tower in the world.

Not long after this incident, much commotion occurred all over social media as people were posting and reposting the video of this horrific event. By posting and sharing the video, what many didn't consider was how absolutely disrespectful that is to Tyre's family. The family didn't even find out of his death in a proper manner -- his family watched a video of their own son falling to his death, according to a CNN interview with Tyre's father, Yarnell Sampson.

In that interview, Yarnell mentioned Tyre had dreams to play professional football and purchase a home for his mother.

His family describes Tyre as respectful, gentle and kind. He had big dreams and was someone everyone felt happy to be around according to those close to him.

Tyre was a 6'4" football player from St. Louis, Illinois. Even though he was in middle school, his talent allowed him to join in high school practices.

This young man was not able to rest in respect because of the social media coverage garnered by video captured by witnesses. Neither his death nor his family was honored by all the posts. Inconsiderate individuals insensitively continued to share that video on all social media platforms, gaining a plethora of views, followers and overall attention. It is not clear if the motive was mere engagement, but it does not dismiss the fact that what was done was wrong.

Theater major Cheyenne McAllister said, "It's insensitive for the family to see the video blasted all over social media."

An individual who was obvious about her motive of exploitation was a woman who went by the name of "Shay Johnson." This woman went on national television and participated in interviews, claiming to have been a relative of Tyre. She wore a shirt with his face on it, faced the camera and cried while stating the family was hurting and claimed to have had to clean up Tyre's blood.

Tyre's mother made a statement saying she did not know of anyone by the name of "Shay Johnson." It was later discovered this 32-year-old woman's real name is Lewishena Lavonia Browning, a club entertainer and criminal.

Browning has been in jail four times in Orange County and is currently awaiting trial for a previous crime. She has been fired from her job due to her sick impersonation, but no arrests have been made in the victim's investigation according to Florida officials.

To go on television pretending to be a deceased person's relative, regardless of the family and friends, is not the behavior of a mentally stable person. It is beyond wrong and disrespectful to do such a thing. No charges or arrests may or can be made but according to moral standards, consequences should be dealt.

Proper justice for Tyre has been call for in various ways by different people. Some believe the ride should be taken down, as it poses a threat for future riders. Videos of protests can be found on TikTok, showing groups chanting, "Take it down!" Others believe the ride was not at fault and that the workers should be fired and replaced by employees who are properly trained. According to the manufacturer, Slingshot Group, the Freefall ride has a weight limit of 287 lbs. Tyre was 340 lbs, exceeding the limit but was still allowed to ride.

The video of Tyre's tragic fall shows park workers just standing at the gate with no reaction. Riders are seen to be screaming and pleading to be let off the ride. One of the workers asked if they were sure they checked Tyre's seat and they consistently said yes. It is obvious the workers were not trained properly to handle an emergency, hence their lack of reaction. Being trained how to turn away riders that do not meet the weight requirement could have changed Tyre's outcome. It would have been better for him to be turned away at every single ride than for him to have been allowed, only for his life to be cut short.

"We need to be sure that we make sure this issue should never happen again. Ride operators need to make sure that the safety gear is really working and that we can't bend the rules for people to have fun," McAllister said.

An ongoing investigation is still at hand, and the Freefall tower will be closed until further notice.

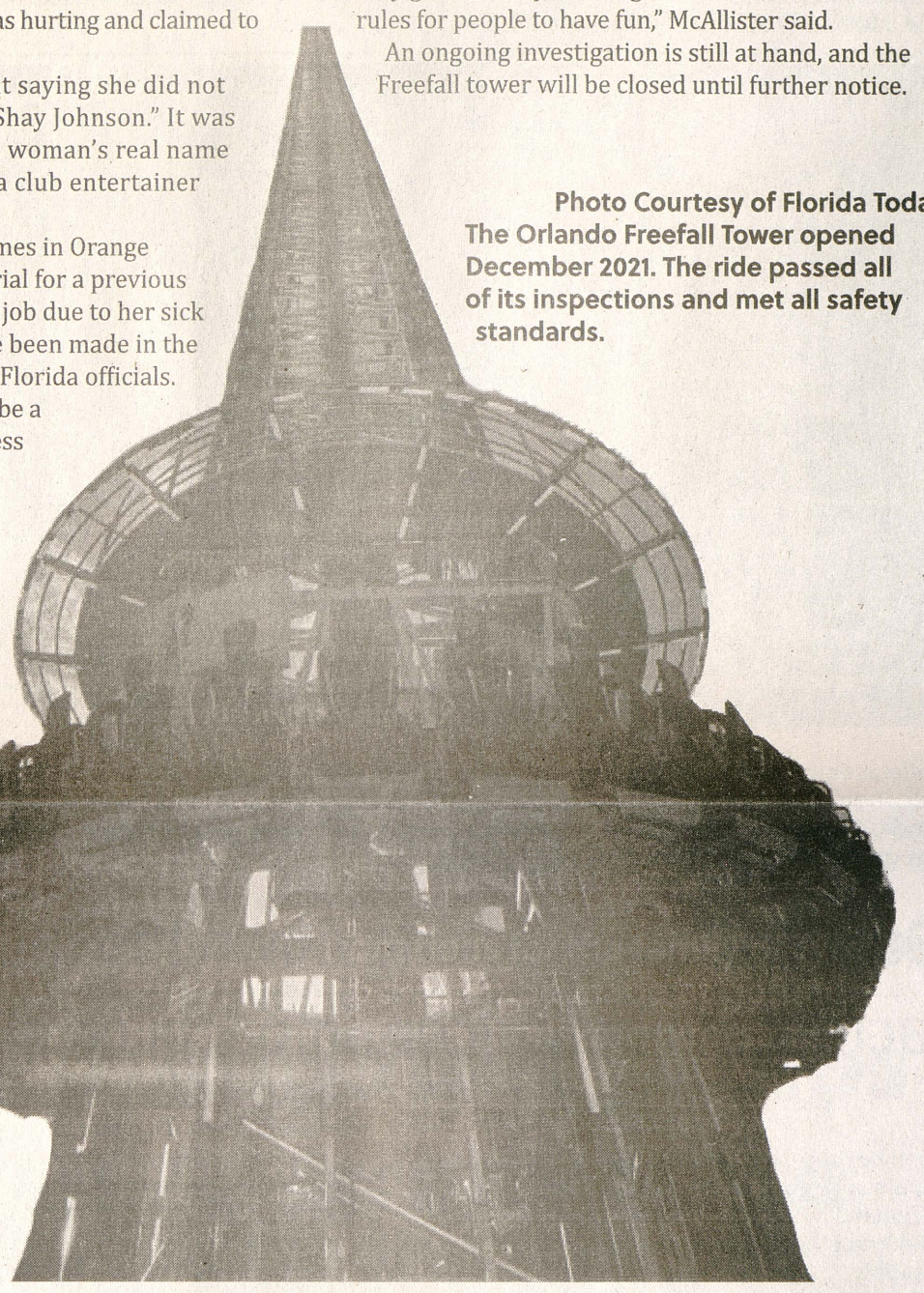
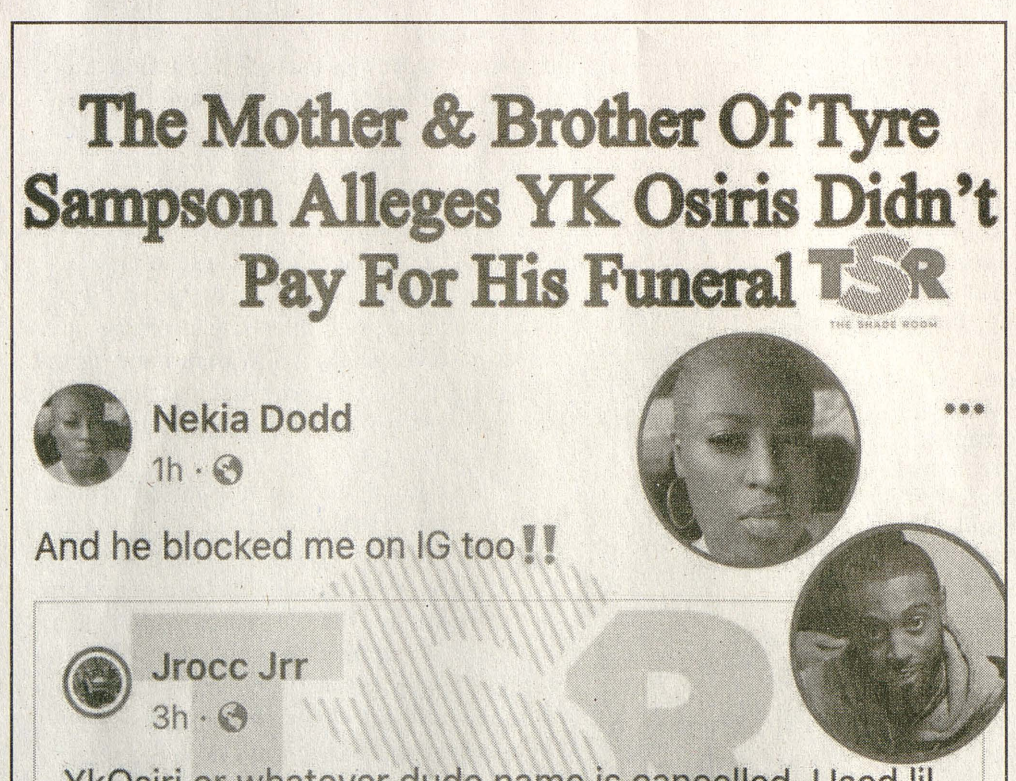


Photo Courtesy of Florida Today
The Orlando Freefall Tower opened December 2021. The ride passed all of its inspections and met all safety standards.



Screenshot from Instagram/@theshaderoom
In a post on Instagram, Florida rapper YK Osiris claims to have donated $15,000 toward Tyre's funeral expenses. The family has claimed to have not received these funds, with their highest gofundme donation being $500. YK Osiris has denied these allegations and has posted screenshots and recordings to verify his donation. According to The Shade Room, Osiris' sister, Armonie Williams, also posted a screenshot of his donation but Tyre's brother, Jrocc Jr. believed it to be photoshopped. There is currently no proof on Osiris' behalf that he sent funds.

Screenshot from GoFundMe.com
Tyre's mother Nekia Dodd created a GoFundMe for funeral expenses and needs for family. The desired goal of $30,000 has been exceeded, but donations are still being accepted. With the horrific video of his death continuing to circulate, some say it to be the worst tragedy captured on video next to the film of the tragic death of George Floyd. According to Fox35 Orlando, the family will be filing a lawsuit against ICON Park, as the Freefall Tower did not have a sign stating its weight limit, nor was a scale present. The family's attorneys said a forensic engineering firm has been hired for the continued investigation.

SCAN ME

Donations for the family of Tyre Sampson can be made at gofundme.com/f/donations-for-tyre-sampson.

Supreme Court: Jackson nominated along party lines

From Page 2

According to The New York Times, "as applause echoed from the marbled walls, Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky and the minority leader, turned his back and slowly walked out, as did most of the few Republicans remaining on the floor, leaving half of the chamber empty as the other half celebrated in a stark reflection of the partisan divide."

A majority of Republican senators viewed Jackson as qualified for the position but highly disagreed with her political views as well as previous sentencing decisions.

"When it came to one of the most consequential decisions a president can make, a lifetime appointment to our highest court, the Biden administration let the radicals run the show," United States Senator Mitchell McConnel said.

Some believe Jackson's confirmation into the Supreme Court will have a significant impact on future generations to come.

"History will be changed forever now that people of color know they have a chance to have a spot on the Supreme Court. It gives our younger generations more to dream about," Bell said.

In addition to the historical aspect of Jackson's confirmation, her views may bring new insight to conversations held within the court.

"And so she does bring a unique perspective, that may not change the vote, because like I said, the ideological structure of these cases, you know, is what it is. But it's certainly going to kind of create new chances for dissenting opinions or from majority opinions, it's going to create new dialogue within the court itself," said Jamie Bitzenhofer government professor at TJC.

Jackson first received her degree in law in 1996 at Harvard University and Harvard Law School. According to the New York Times after receiving her degree Jackson, "held three clerkships with federal judges, including in 1999 as a clerk to Justice Breyer, who she is now under consideration to succeed more than 20 years later."

Most of her career was spent as a judge in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Circuit until 2021.

Jackson is also a member of, "The Judicial Conference Committee on Defender Services, as well as the Board of Overseers of Harvard University and the Council of the American Law Institute. She also currently serves on the board of Georgetown Day School and the United States Supreme Court Fellows Commission," according to The United States of Court Appeals District of Columbia Circuit.

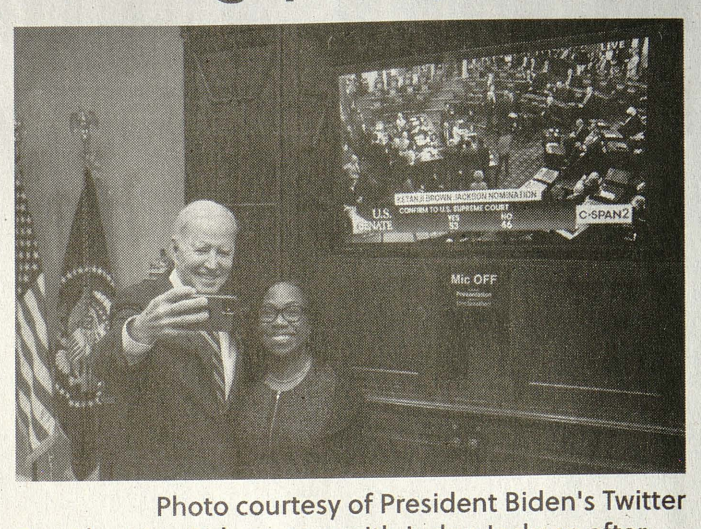


Photo courtesy of President Biden's Twitter

President Joe Biden poses with Judge Jackson after the Senate confirmed her confirmation. The vote was divided almost strictly between party lines. Many republicans believe Jackson is qualified for the job, but fundamentally disagree with her views.

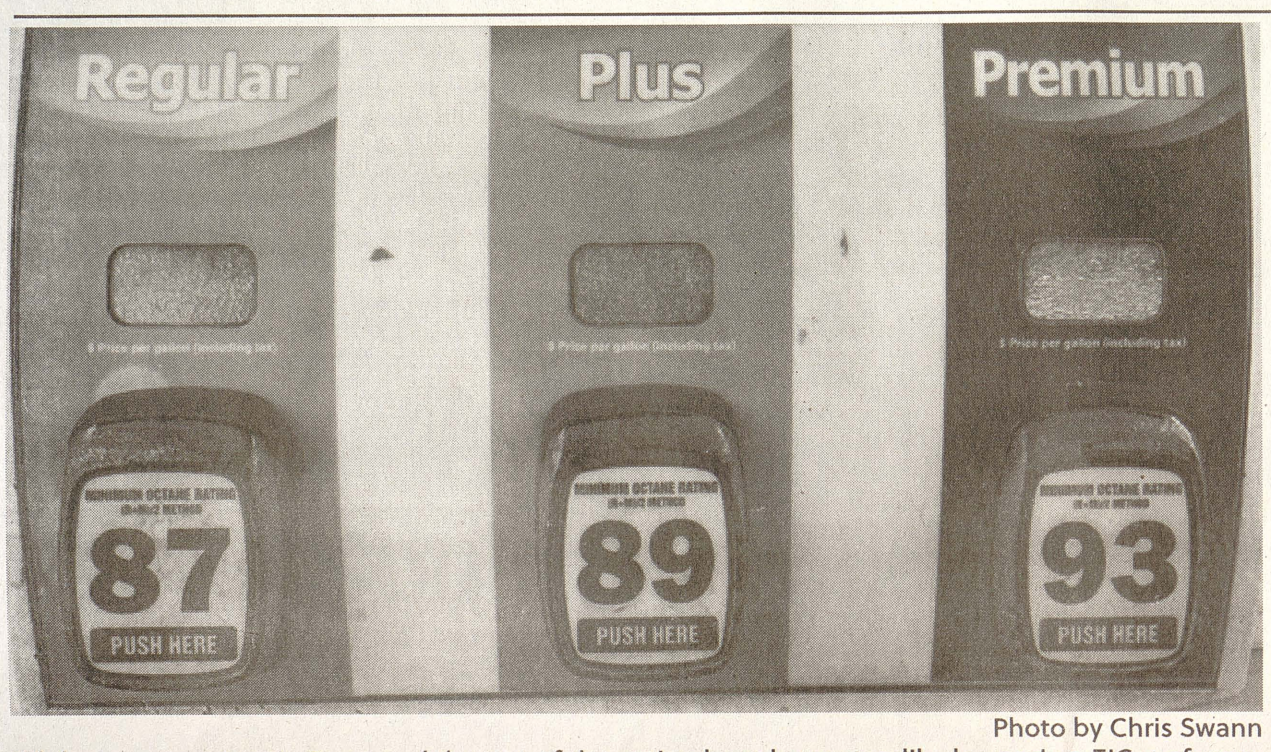


Photo by Chris Swann

While average prices in Texas and the rest of the nation have been steadily decreasing, TJC professor of economics Cullen Davis says there are many convoluting factors in determining gasoline price trends. Consumer confidence, changes in supply and government regulation are some of the factors that go into the determination of gas prices.

Gas Prices: Breaking down the multiple factors behind prices, impacts on students

From Page 2

you buy the car based on that car's gas mileage." Davis said. Apparent prices today can encourage to demand more gas in the future, which could counteract the decline in prices due to the new influx of supply.

Davis says due to the new influx of barrels from the SPC, oil companies will be intentionally producing less to avoid a large drop in prices once the 180 million barrels are consumed.

"Knowing that there is a definite cut off on this, you might not see as much downward price pressure," David said. "And so they're going to be more keen on sitting on known good wells for as long as they can"

At the same press conference, Biden accused oil companies of choosing not to drill new wells on federal lands that have already been approved to drill on. As a result, Biden called on congress to make oil companies pay fees on unused wells on federal leases.

"Those sitting on unused leases and idle wells will either have to start producing or pay the price for their inaction," Biden said.

Stine said while it is a valid accusation from President Biden, there isn't much he can do. He believes that the only real way to encourage oil companies to drill in these lands is to create incentives for companies to drill more.

"The problem is oil companies are only going to drill and explore new fields if they think it's feasible long term," Stine said. "Oil companies may be reluctant to go in and try to exploit new fields, or even to open up old fields. Because they may not make a profit from that oil."

From the perspective of an oil company, creating too much supply by drilling new wells could create unprofitable margins. In 2020 for example, prices dropped to a historic low of $39 per barrel at the peak of the pandemic, according to the EIA.

Students around the nation are also feeling the pressure. On an even tighter budget, gas is now taking a bigger portion out of student's wallets.

Heather Kroll, a sophomore at TJC, commutes to campus and work and fills her vehicle about once a week. She describes the difference gas prices has made on her finances.

"It's definitely made a difference. I spend about 13 hours not at home during the day just because I don't want to spend the gas to drive home after school before work." She said, "I don't even go home to change for the gym. I used to go home after school every day."

Many experts around the country have differing expectations for Biden's plan. With the amount of factors that go into the complex economics of oil and gas prices, there are many differing ways prices at the pump could go. The rollout of barrels is set to begin in May, and only time will truly tell how this move by Biden will really affect the market, and therefore the impact on consumer's wallets.

UT Tyler introduces exclusive scholarship program for incoming students

By Madison Grimaldo
Social Media Editor

The University of Texas at Tyler recently re-branded their Reaching Higher Scholarship to the Patriot Promise Scholarship. The Patriot Promise Scholarship is now available for new students at UT Tyler, such as freshmen or incoming transfers.

Patriot Promise offers to cover tuition and fees not covered by financial aid. With UT Tyler being the biggest transfer school for TJC students, many may want to take advantage of this opportunity.

TJC freshman Caroline Phillips said, "I feel that the Patriot Promise is going to do a lot of good for this community and lots of students. It's exciting to think more people will have the chance of higher education through it."

With some students beginning their journey at junior colleges to avoid debt, the UT Promise Scholarship provides opportunities for students to further their education.

"I think the Patriot Promise is a great resource for transferring students. Most students start at a junior college for the reason of debt, so I think a transfer scholarship for these students increases the chance of them going on to complete a four-year degree." Both Horstkamp and Phillips plan on transferring to UT Tyler and applying for the scholarship.

David Barron, the associate vice president of University Enrollment at UT Tyler, explains the requirements for potential candidates.

"You have to be full time; you have to be a Texas resident," Barron said. "You have to file the FAFSA and you have an adjusted gross income of less than $80,000."

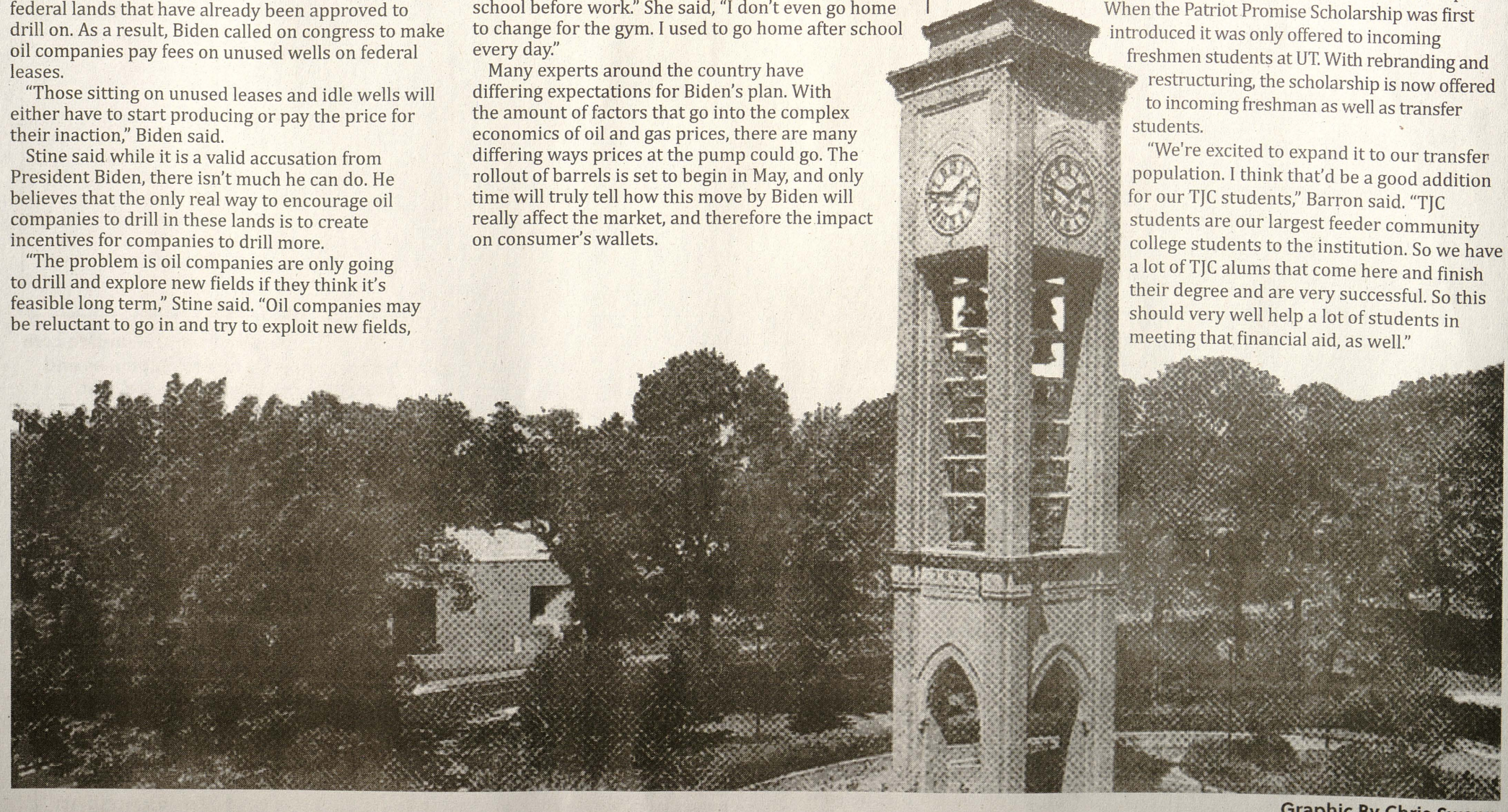
You also must receive less than $10,000 from grants and aid in order to receive the scholarship. While the scholarship is first come first serve, Barron expressed even late applicants still have a chance to be awarded some aid as they do have a high budget and the chances of the money running out is slim.

There is no special application process for the scholarship. All students have to do is fill out the FAFSA application and they are automatically considered.

The deadline to apply is May 1. If awarded the scholarship students will receive an email and see on their financial aid tab that they received it. The scholarship covers only tuition and fees not covered by FAFSA. It is not a refundable scholarship.

When the Patriot Promise Scholarship was first introduced it was only offered to incoming freshmen students at UT. With rebranding and restructuring, the scholarship is now offered to incoming freshman as well as transfer students.

"We're excited to expand it to our transfer population. I think that'd be a good addition for our TJC students," Barron said. "TJC students are our largest feeder community college students to the institution. So we have a lot of TJC alums that come here and finish their degree and are very successful. So this should very well help a lot of students in meeting that financial aid, as well."



Graphic By Chris Swann

Ritter Tower stands tall on the UT Tyler campus. The university has re-branded their Reaching Higher scholarship to the Patriot Promise scholarship. Aimed exclusively for transfer and freshman students, it covers costs not covered by financial aid.

THUNDERDOME

Arts Fest returns to TJC after COVID-19 pandemic

By Marie Salazar
Editor-in-Chief

Tyler Junior Colleges Arts Festival is returning after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 along with fan favorite events such as the Thunderdome Art Competition.

The Thunderdome Art Competition will be held at noon on April 27 in the Jenkins Bell Tower Courtyard. Art students and Art Club members who intend to participate must arrive at 11:30 a.m. in the Jenkins Bell Tower Courtyard with a piece of art to enter.

The Thunderdome competition brings two willing artists into the dome, with them knowing that only one artist's piece will survive. The event is often surrounded by the phrase "two enter and only one leaves," hinting at its destructive aspect.

During the event, Art Department Chair Derrick White will select two pieces from the submitted work to present to the crowd. Three onlookers will deliberate and choose which piece they like the best.

"I'll have three judges randomly selected out of the crowd and they'll vote on which piece they liked the best. It's completely subjective. They get to pick it on whatever merit or reason. They don't have to defend it or anything, so they just pick which one they like better," White said.

The art piece with the majority vote will advance to the next round and leave the other to be destroyed by the volunteer "annihilators."

"We have what's called the annihilators. These are Art Club volunteers that will dress up in costumes and masks and all kinds of different things and they will lavishly destroy it however they see fit," White said.

This process happens round after round until there is only one champion. The winner of the Thunderdome will receive a winning piece from the faculty mini round, their own piece intact and $200. To add more suspense to the competition, the winner gets the opportunity to double or nothing their cash prize.

"I'll have four envelopes out there. Three of them say double, one says destroy. They get the option of choosing an envelope. If they pick a double envelope, they get $400 cash. But if they happen to choose that one envelope that says destroy they have to give the $200 back and they have to destroy their own piece in front of everybody," White said.

In the past 13 years the "destroy" envelope has only been chosen twice, once in 2017 and once in 2019.

The Thunderdome Art Competition started after a conversation between art professor Paul Jones and White 13 years ago. During their conversation, the consensus was made that art does not provide an adrenaline rush you would expect from things such as contact sports.

"It was like, 'How can we bring adrenaline to visual art?' and we decided to have a Thunderdome Art Competition where we destroy the losing pieces," White said.

The first Thunderdome started in 2009 and was so popular that it returned to TJC for each Art Festival up through 2019. The 2020 Arts Fest was canceled due to the pandemic, and so was the Thunderdome. Because of the two-year gap in events, the excitement boiling up for its return is fairly high.

"I'm feeling immense excitement, because one of the things that pandemic took away from us here in the Art Department is our sense of community," White said.

White goes on to mention how the Art Department serves as a space for art students to reside and hangout but when the COVID-19 hit and campus was closed, this space was taken away.

The Thunderdome returning provides many students an opportunity to express the emotional turmoil felt during the pandemic.

"Thunderdome is going to be just kind of an emotional release of tension and stress of the semester and the stress of the last two years. And we're going to have some fun and destroy some art," White said.

The importance behind the event is to teach art students a lesson on letting their pieces go and ensuring they do not get unreasonably attached to them.

"So, you have to be able to sell your work, send it out into the world or even have it destroyed, so that you can move forward in your creative process of making more work, making new work," White said.

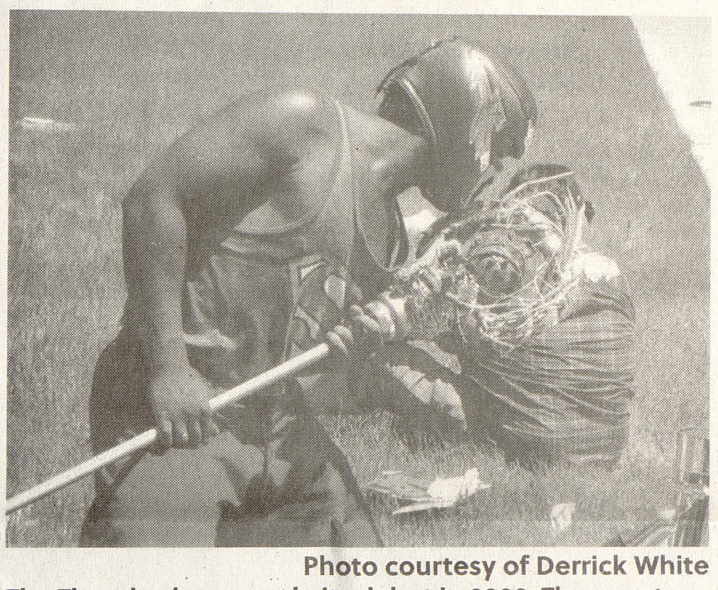


Photo courtesy of Derrick White
The Thunderdome made its debut in 2009. The event had its 10 year anniversary in 2019 before the pandemic.

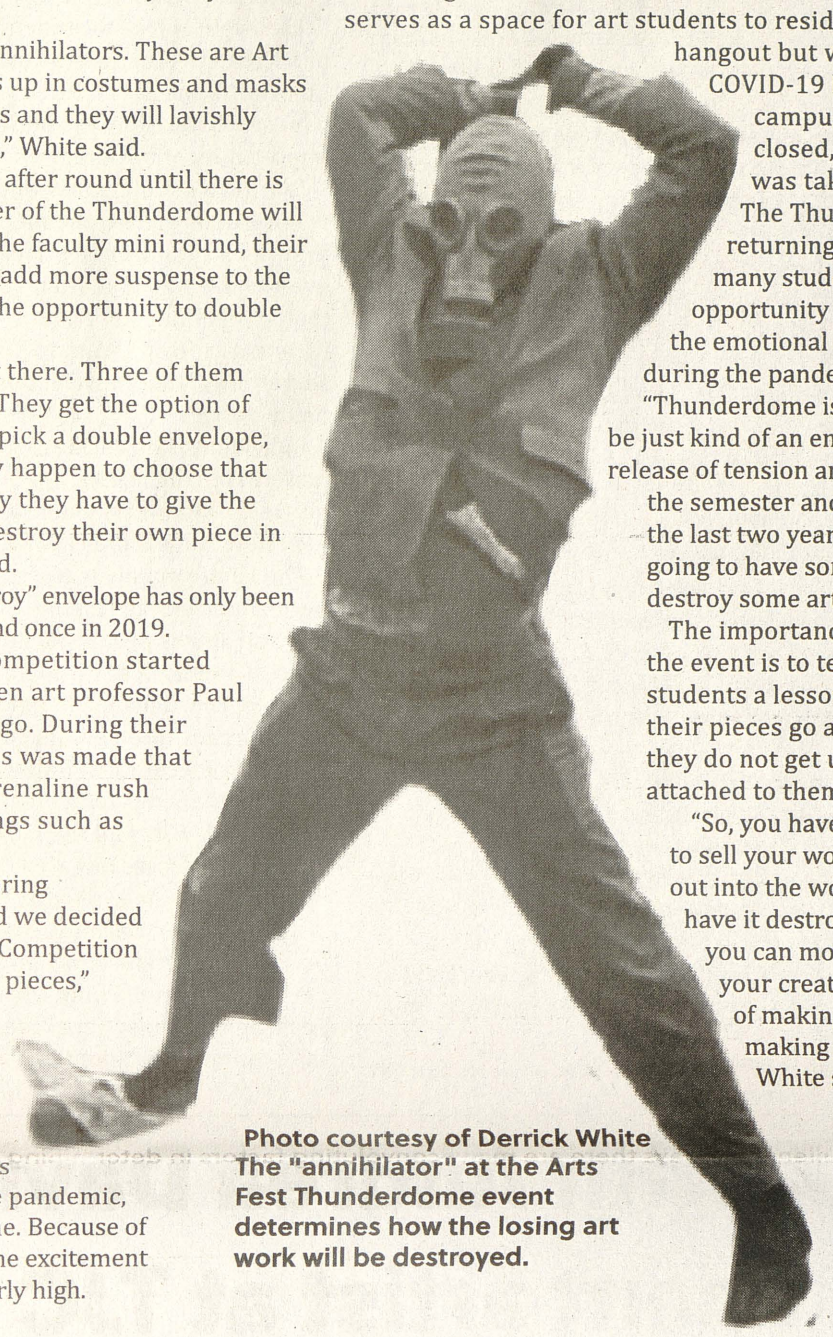


Photo courtesy of Derrick White
The "annihilator" at the Arts Fest Thunderdome event determines how the losing art work will be destroyed.

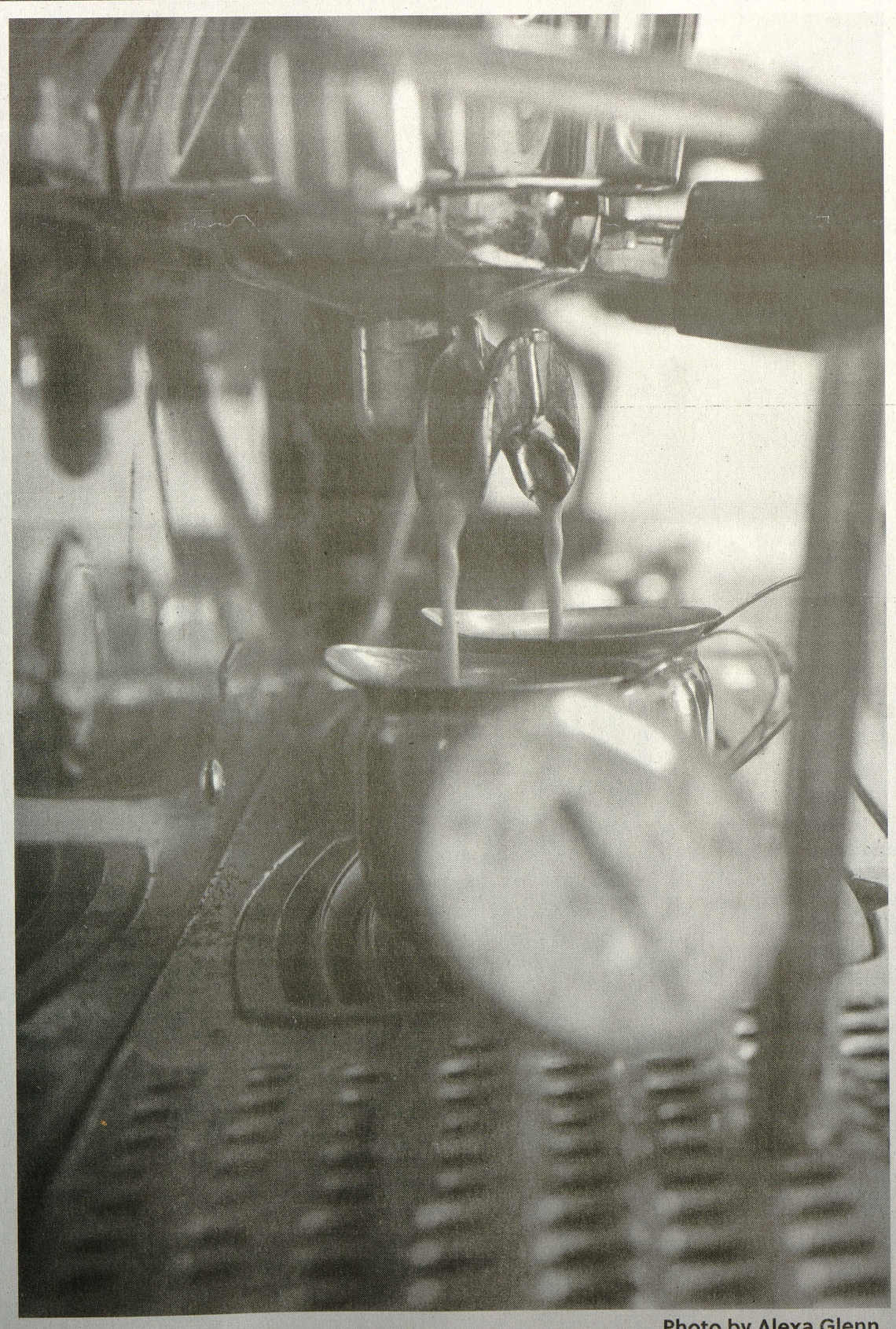


Photo by Alexa Glenn
A barista prepares a beverage in one of JumpShot's brewing machines. Each Sunday all net proceeds earned at the "for purpose" coffee shop go directly to an orphanage in Uganda.

JumpShot jumps into production in East Texas

By Asia Johnson
Managing Editor

JumpShot Coffee, located on 734 South Fleishel Ave., is one of Tyler's newest local coffee shops.

They will be launching TJC Tuesdays, where students with a valid student ID will get 10% off all drinks.

From frappes and lattes, to smoothies, teas and pastries, JumpShot offers a variety of drinks and snacks available to the community. Their most popular item is called the "Fatty Daddy," which is a caramel based, iced Americano with caramel cold foam on top.

What makes JumpShot stand out is the objective of the shop, which store manager, Stephen Burton explains.

"We're a for-purpose coffee shop, meaning that we take profit, but we also take some of our profits for the betterment of the community or for other charities," Burton said. "And our owners, Sasha and Levi, are supporting an orphanage in Uganda through JumpShot. And so every Sunday, all of our net proceeds go to supporting that orphanage. I would say that's what sets us apart as well." JumpShot is located in the parking lot of Green Acres Bowling at the intersection of Troup Highway and Loop 323.

Burton explained the reasoning behind the location choice was because the owners understood a demand from the neighboring hospital and they desired to supply what was needed. He also expounded on local businesses and the importance of them.

"I think the importance of local businesses and local coffee shops, I think it's just the way you impact your community," Burton said. "It's the easiest way to give back, the easiest way to make change when you're not having to support people who don't even live in the city or know the needs of what the city is going through or even the neighborhood or in the community there."

Not only does JumpShot create a haven for the community, but they also provide a safe setting for their employees.

"I think the environment and the community aspect that we're trying to create is my favorite. It's not just a workplace, but it's a place that we can come in, and we know what's going on in each other's lives," Burton said. "We like actively tried to hang out with each other outside of work. And it's not a place where we're like, getting on each other or like, coming down really hard. But it's one where we try to build each other up and try to grow and improve individually and as a team."

JumpShot Coffee's hours of business are from 5:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. daily, with happy hours from 2-6 p.m where all drinks are 10% off.

They are currently open to hire more staff and have shown interest in catering for social events.

For more information, visit JumpShot Tyler TX on Facebook or go online at flowcode.com/page/jumpshotcoffee.

Las Mascaras hosts last 'Venue' for spring

By Marie Salazar
Editor-in-Chief

Tyler Junior College's student organization Las Mascaras will be hosting its final Venue for the spring semester from 9 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, at Jean Browne Theatre in the Wise Cultural Arts Building.

The Venue is a coffee house event at TJC where students can perform pieces they have been working on in their personal time.

"The whole reason it's done is because we have so many set performances for like mainstages, second stages, readings, but as artsy people, we're always working on something like we have a song that we want to do," Robbie Wilt, Las Mascaras' vice president, said. "A lot of people write poems. We have a few dancers; it's whatever you're doing that is your art, and you would like to show to other people. That's what we want to see."

The Venue was originally created by Dr. David Crawford around 20 years ago with the hope that it would provide students a place to exhibit their work.

"I was told a guy named Dr. David Crawford said, 'I want a coffee shop environment where people can show off their art.' And that's just what we've been doing ever since then," Wilt said.

Wilt touches on the importance of the event as well as the opportunities it provides students at TJC.

"The way I see it is that I want to support people doing art, especially local art. It's something that even though we can perform in our bedrooms, or to our friends, it's a space that you can say, 'This is what I love, and this is what I want to do, and I want to show this to people," Wilt said.

For students who are unable to participate in other performances within the theatre program, the venue provides them with the opportunity to hit the stage.

"Venue is important because in the times when we have a mainstage going on, not everybody who is an active member of Las Mascaras/a theatre major, can have a part in the show. Venue is an opportunity for everyone to perform something," Cheyenne McAllister, Las Mascaras member, said.

The Venue also provides performers an environment to display works of art they have created without the fear of judgment.

"It's really relaxed. There have been times where I've gotten nervous right before my performance section of Venue will begin, and I don't hear anything except the hollers of encouragement from my peers and even faculty that will be there alongside us. The environment is wonderful, and even if you come to venue and don't perform, it's so much fun to just sit back and watch everyone," McAllister said.

The event is free to students, and anyone can participate. Those interested in performing must sign up prior to the event. However, if time allows attendees who are inspired by the performances may get the opportunity at the end.

"We get a list of people who want to perform, and we're gonna write those names down," Wilt said. "The first registration, I make sure we have enough time for everybody to go. But after that, people can still come up and say, "Hey, I want to do something," and I'll write their name down."

Individuals who decide to perform but did not sign up before the show may not be able to perform unless time allows.

The Venue mainly features performances like singing but also allows performers to express themselves through monologues, dancing and more.

The organization emphasizes that most pieces must follow a list of guidelines to be performed. Wilt said the guidelines include but are not limited to, no excessive cursing, trigger warnings must be submitted to the hosts if necessary, no preaching and the performance must not exceed the 5-minute time limit.

To find more information about The Venue, visit events.tjc.edu and search, "Theatre Venue."

The Venue will also pick back up in the fall for those who are unable to attend this upcoming event.

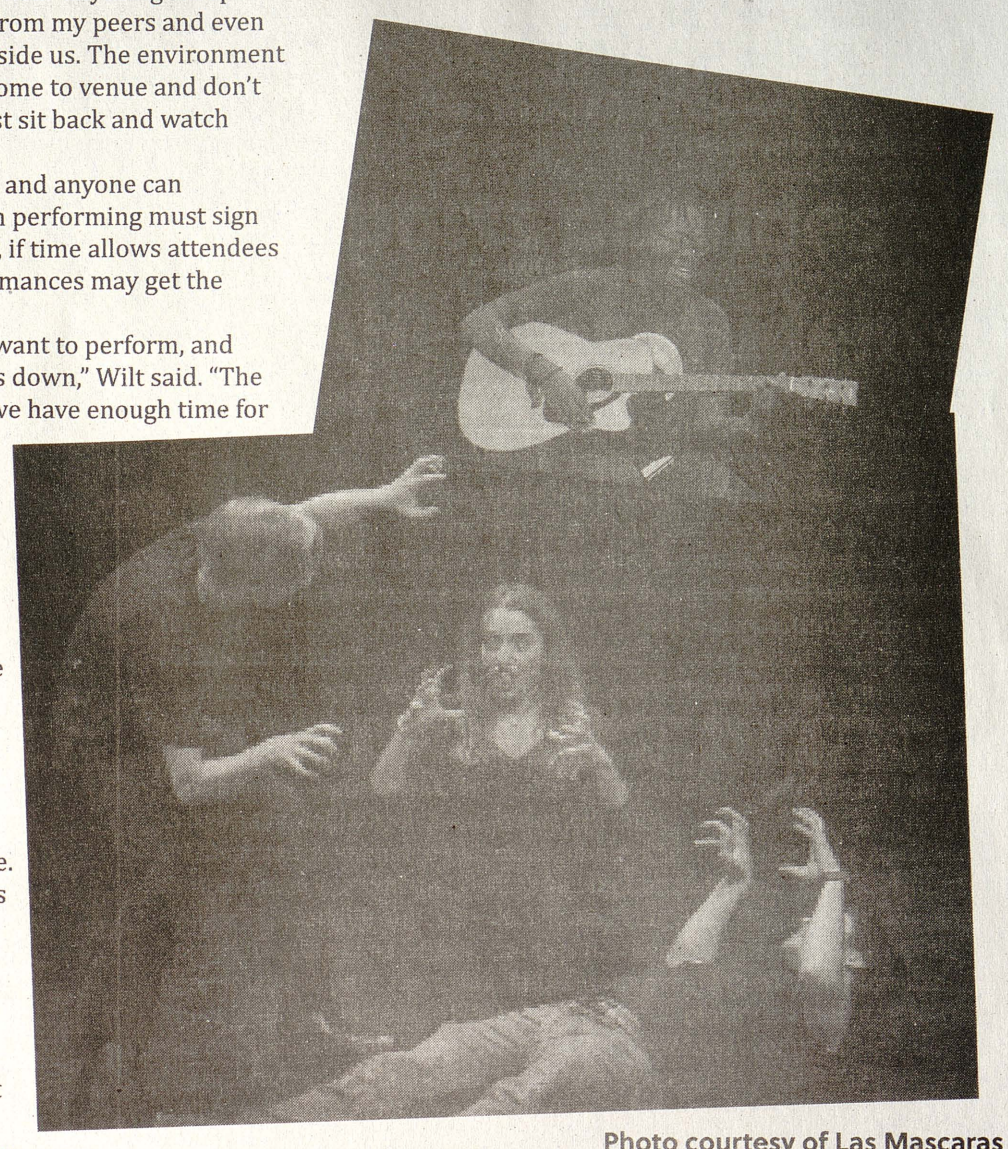


Photo courtesy of Las Mascaras
Manasseh Matatila plays guitar (top image), (Bottom from left to right) Dylan Preston, Maria Sarri, Ryan Lounsbury, preforming at a Venue event.

Q&A with Andrea Davis student artist at TJC

Interview and Photo By Issac Belota
Multimedia Journalist

Q: How did you get interested in art?

A: I have been artistic my entire life ever since I think it was third grade. I did an art collage in a mandatory art class. I loved it, and I did art all through school. Every year I did an art class.

Q: Do you mostly do sketching or are you into all types of mediums?

A: My favorite thing is painting. I love to paint, but I'm slowly falling in love with charcoal.

Q: What do you love about painting?

A: I like the feel, the kind of mood it sets almost, and the euphoria I get from other people experiencing my work and commenting on it, like, "I really like this"or "How you did that?"

Q: You said you are slowly falling in love with charcoal art, why is that?

A: I was very intimidated by it at the beginning. I had never worked with charcoal before, and plus the size of the paper it's 18 x 24. And it's really big to someone who works in a really small sketchbook or on a canvas. Like the canvas can be huge and I'd be fine with it. It's just drawing that I found intimidating.

Q: Do you see things that inspire you?

A: Oh, all the time. I love to take pictures of things to kind of inspire my artwork. I have one I took the other day, and I really want to paint it. It was in a sepia tone. It was an empty canvas without a drawing and I was sitting in a chair next to it. It was taken from across the room. It was so cool. That is another thing, I love photography.

Q: Do you like just any type of artistic endeavor?

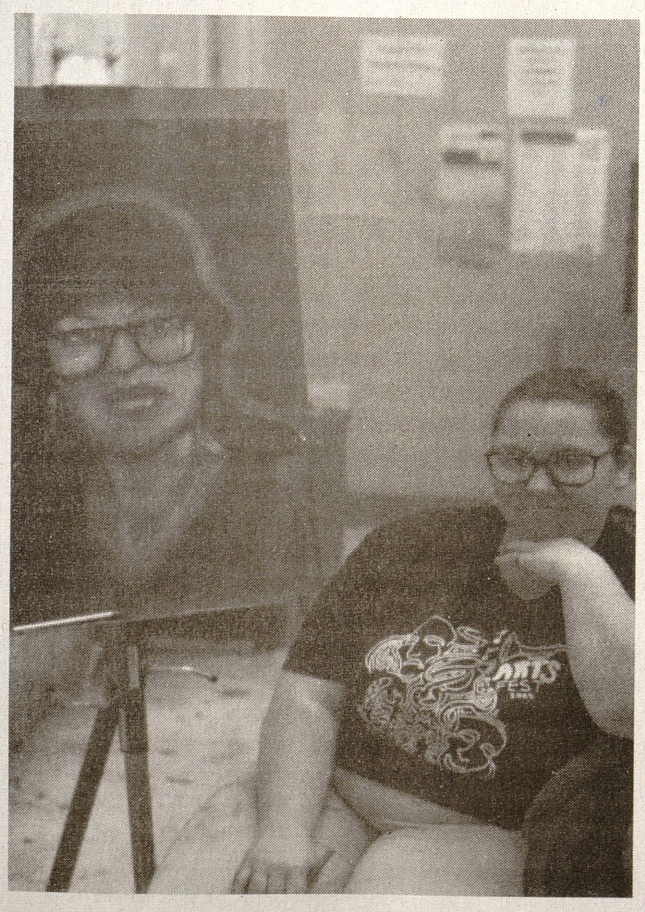
A: Yes, I love just kind of showing who I am through my art. So, people can experience it, because I have a lot of trouble describing myself to other people. So it's easier to just do the art and then they experience me though the art.

Q: Where do you see your art career going from here?

A: My dream is when I graduate in May with my general studies to take the summer off and then come back in the fall for visual communications. I want to one day have my own on-the-road company where people can hire me to do photo shoots and take pictures. I also would love to work for National Geographic. That is my big time goal to work and take pictures for National Geographic.

Q: Why National Geographic?

A: Because I love to take landscape photography, and I have a good eye for stuff like that. All my stuff gets lots of compliments. I even had someone tell me they would buy my piece if it was printed and blown up. So, I was like I should make a career out of that.



Andrea Davis is majoring in general studies at TJC. A few of Davis's mediums include, sketching, painting and charcoal art.

Graphic by Marie Salazar

Rec sports provides activities for students

By Christian Quarles
Multimedia Journalist

With the ongoing construction happening at the Ornelas Health & Physical Education Center, opportunities for students to get exercise and participate in recreational activities have become limited. However, the Recreational Sports Program at TJC continues to offer recreational fun for students.

Due to the construction and the limitations that it causes, the Recreational Sports Program has had to get creative with their recreational lineup. Recently, they initiated a dorm vs. dorm competition that will continue for a few weeks. The dorms that plan to participate are Bateman, Crossroads Hall, Ornelas and Wesley House.

The activities included will be cornhole, flag football, virtual games such as Beat Saber with virtual reality, kickball, and an esports competition with the games Madden and NBA2K. The Rec Center on the second floor of the Spirit Room also has NBA2k and Madden available to play. All students are encouraged to participate in competitions even if they do not live in dorms. The events will be located on the intramural field and throughout the various locations on campus. For a full schedule of events and locations, contact the office of the Rec Center Coordinator 903-510-3251.

The recreational program also offers other activities for students. The Rec Center staff offers virtual reality headsets from 4:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Spirit Room, located on the first floor of the Rogers Student Center. Students need to go to the desk in the Spirit Room and make an IMLeagues account to start their virtual reality journey.

The recreational program at TJC is run by recreational sports coordinator Derek Talcott. The program's purpose is to engage students and give students an opportunity to be physically and mentally active. "The activities are designed to support a holistic TJC experience," Talcott said.

Talcott said the benefits of recreational sports are many. "Research shows staying physically active can also help with academic performance, sleep, and stress," Talcott said. "It gives the students the opportunity to connect through social interaction as well as improving physical health."

For more information concerning the dorm vs. dorm competitions or to see what else the Recreation Sports Program has available for students, follow the programs Twitter with the handle @TJCRecSports and like their Facebook page via http://facebook.com/tjcrecsports.

Arts Fest

Wordcraft: Telling Spellbindingly Good Stories
19 4 - 5 p.m.
Jenkins Hall, Room 1109

Lunch on the Lawn
20 Noon
Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center Lawn

Hundred Years Ago Film Festival: "Lorna Doone"
20 6 p.m.
Jenkins Hall, Room 1109

Essential Musicals: "Grease"
21 6 p.m.
Jenkins Hall, Room 1109

Theatre 2nd Stage: "Thor in the Land of Giants"
21-23 8 p.m.
Wise Cultural Arts Plaza

Student Recital
22 Noon
Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center Recital Hall

Student Plays Readings
22-23 3 p.m. Friday
7 p.m. Saturday
Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center Recital Hall

Harmony Vocal Jazz Concert
23 7:30 p.m.
Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center Wise Auditorium

The Venue
23 9 p.m.
Jean Browne Theatre

Music Program: Graduation Recital
24 3 p.m.
Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center Wise Auditorium

Spring Percussion Ensembles Concert
26 7:30 p.m.
Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center Wise Auditorium

Thunderdome Art Competition
27 Noon
Jenkins Bell Tower Courtyard

Rock the Garden
28 10 a.m.
Genecov Garden

Jazz Ensemble Concert
28 7:30 p.m.
Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center Wise Auditorium

TJC theatre Presents: "Heathen Valley"
28-30 7:30 p.m. Thursday
7:30 p.m. Friday
2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday
Jean Brown Theatre

Student Life Events

Student Senate General Assembly
19 4 - 5 p.m.
White Administrative Services Center Board Room

Student Leadership Banquet
21 7 - 9 p.m.
Apache Room 1

University Transfer Fair
26 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Rogers Student Center 2nd Floor

XTE's Social Dance
27 8 - 10 p.m.
Apache Room 1

Library Workshops

Lies and Statistics: Finding and Using Relevant Statistics to Strengthen your Argument
19 6 - 7 p.m.
Zoom

Lies and Statistics: Finding and Using Relevant Statistics to Strengthen your Argument
20 3 - 4 p.m.
Quest Classroom

Is it Scholarly? Choosing Our Resources
26 6 - 7 p.m.
Zoom

Is it Scholarly? Choosing Our Resources
27 3 - 4 p.m.
Quest Classroom

For more information on zoom workshops and other events, visit the calendar at tjc.edu.

Study songs picked by The DrumBeat

By Santiago Nunez

Everyone is looking for ways to distract themselves from the impending doom and gloom of the final six weeks or, adversely, fully invest themselves inside of their textbooks. Here at The DrumBeat, we love listening to music and sharing the love with our readers. We have compiled a list of some sweet melodies to get your earworms buzzing with joy (or melancholia, take your pick.) We hope you enjoy the following assortment of songs; we sure did. This playlist is available on Spotify. Go to thedrumbeat.com for more information.

Courtesy of The Rare Occasions

"Futureproof"
The Rare Occasions

To be future proof is to be immune to the inescapable grasp of time, something so inherently impossible that this ode to the idea is made all the more relatable to anyone who struggles with the passage of life, the changing seasons, and the words of past lovers. This high energy indie rock song is juxtaposed with existential lyrical content. The drums, bass and electric guitars are ever present in the song. Their rich tones make up for Brian McLaughlin's more subdued vocals. "Futureproof" is a letter to ignorance and denial.

Courtesy of Republic Records

"The New Day"
Greta Van Fleet

It is said imitation is the greatest form of flattery, and "The New Day" by Greta Van Fleet is what you get when you flatter Led Zeppelin and Aerosmith by writing something akin to a long-lost B-side. This is a trip down memory lane, and those who are not aware of Greta Van Fleet might even think this song was taken straight out of Robert Plant's unpublished works. The guitar riffs are tight, and the vocal work is impressive with Josh Kiszka serving as a look back into the history of rock music.

"Trepanation"
Millennium Parade

Millenium Parade is a relatively new group led by Daiki Tsuneta, also of Japan's King Gnu, but with this art pop effort they sound like a band knee deep with experience. The song title is a metaphor for drilling into the mind of someone else, through memories. The speaker in this instance describes the pain they feel from losing someone through a vocal modulator and over booming claps, horns and hi hats. The sonic journey "Trepanation" takes you on is remarkable. The thunderous sounds eventually simmer down into a low roar, symbolically representing the frantic experience that is loss.

Courtesy of Sony Music

"Let Loose"
Mt. Joy

L.A.-based indie rock band Mt. Joy has created an upbeat adventure down the rabbit hole that is young love on "Let Loose." The track has an incredibly infectious and bouncy melody accentuating the feeling of joy and love. Matt Quinn's gentle delivery shows the affection they holds for their lover and is so interwoven into the personality of the song that it almost seems like the instrumentation came after the vocals. This is a track for any relationship.

Courtesy of Dual Tone

Courtesy of Dead Oceans

"I Bet on Losing Dogs"
Mitski

In an outpour of emotion, indie rock sweetheart, Mitski, entails her struggle of being in love with people she cannot obtain, those who are too emotionally damaged to be cared for and cannot reciprocate her affection. She implores them to stay with her and believe in the fantasy that it will all work out, despite all odds. The long and drawn-out synths coupled with Mitski's vocals layered over the guitar riffs mirrors how Mitski draws out her relationships despite them being doomed from the start. Mitski is betting on losing dogs by hedging her bets on foolish and blinded obsession. She is a losing dog herself in the sense that she will never win at love.

Courtesy of Foreign Family

"Better Now"
ODESZA

Electro-pop is meant to be fun and energetic and full of nonstop saturation of the brain. When I say that is exactly what this song does I am not kidding. "Better Now" is a cacophony of synths that details the blind optimism all young adults often find themselves in under a euphoric high. The vocals from MARO are an excellent addition to the entire experience because they manage to adjust to both the mood and the rhythm of the song with a soft-spoken tone. An excellent feel good summer jam to blast in your car with the windows down.

"Waves"
Dean Lewis

Life is not always a bright and sunny day. Sometimes clouds loom overhead with the threat of heavy rain ready to disrupt it. Folk pop artist Dean Lewis expresses this notion in "Waves." Lewis uses water as a direct symbol for both powerful and negative emotion. A minimalist approach is deployed in terms of instrumentation, this is to better highlight Lewis' powerful vocals. The song uses weather to describe the state of mind Lewis finds himself in with many mentions of wind, storms and obviously waves, which all represent his negative mental health and the feeling that his youth and the stability that comes with it is gone.

Courtesy of Island Australia

"Hiders"
Burial

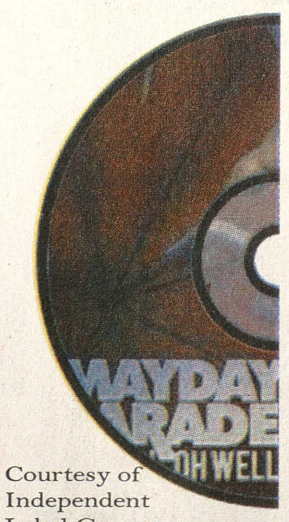
Burial strays away from his usual style on "Hiders" as we see him take on an entirely different direction that contrasts with the other tracks on the same EP. If this could be described by a single sentence, it'd be an upbeat journey through an abandoned city while crying. There are so many things happening at every point of this song, from the chopped-up vocals, to the grandiose build up, all the way up to the climax of the song where a barrage of hi hats combine with the delicious synths. Burial delivers a beautifully well-made song to add to his beautifully well-made catalog of ambiance.

Courtesy of Hyperdub

Courtesy of RCA Records

"Found"
Tems

Neo-soul has been a breeding ground for some incredibly touching and emotional songs about love and affection. Nigerian singer Tems looks to add to that history with help from Brent Faiyaz. Scars from past relationships are deeper than just the pain of losing someone. Sometimes the pain stems from a feeling of inadequacy. Tems focuses all that emotion in the song "Found." Simple and light 808s working with the tenderness of an acoustic guitar puts all the focus on the voices of the singers. Tems' unique voice feels loud yet unheard, contrasting Faiyaz' subtle and attentive words. Together they highlight the emotional intimacy of "Found."



Courtesy of Independent Label Group

"Oh Well, Oh Well"
Mayday Parade

After the departure of Mayday Parade's lead man, Derek Sanders was left to care for the bands vocals alone. After an album of experimentation, Mayday Parade came into their own on their self-titled LP "Mayday Parade" with the opening track "Oh Well, Oh Well." The track is everything early 2000s pop-punk, but with 2010s production. Fast paced guitars, loud vocals, and angsty lyrics make this emo anthem for the ages. Derek Sanders' details their unrequited love with vulnerable lines about their rejected proposals, nightly escapades and emotional crises.

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